

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

October 9, 2014

Mr. John Dorman
Assistant State Emergency Management Director for Risk Management
North Carolina Emergency Management
4218 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4218

Dear Mr. Dorman:

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) and congratulations on being elected Council Chair by your fellow members at last's week inaugural meeting. Under your leadership, the council will provide recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) about how they can improve the accuracy and reliability of their flood maps that serve as the foundation for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and I strongly encourage you to engage subject matter experts from Louisiana throughout that process.

Unfortunately, only 52% of our nation's flood maps are currently certified as accurate and up-to-date, and FEMA estimates that an additional 4-10% will become not current every year going forward. As Chair of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I provided \$221 million in the Senate bill to support FEMA's flood mapping efforts, an 18% increase over the President's budget request, because we cannot make good decisions without good maps.

While the Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures (LAMP) program is a step in the right direction, it fails to capture many of the unique conditions that occur in coastal Louisiana. The models and other analyses being employed today are primarily based on inland riverine flood events that differ significantly from coastal events. For example, in a riverine system, flood water and waves are affected by straight-line, prevailing winds whereas circular wind patterns are more typical in a coastal flood event such as a hurricane.

I am proud to represent the people of Louisiana and believe that we have an important perspective to offer that will inform and enhance the Council's recommendations to FEMA. It is my sincere hope that you will utilize your discretion and include additional subject matter experts from Louisiana on the Technical Mapping Advisory Council. If I or my office can be of additional assistance, please contact Andrew Holleman in my office at (202)224-8851.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator